

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JOSH ZEPNICK
WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

April 22, 2014

Governor Scott Walker
115 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker,

I'm writing as a follow up to a letter from the Milwaukee Democratic Legislative Caucus relating to heating assistance, dated January 30th. I have included that letter as an attachment to this letter. As the senior Democrat serving on the Legislature's Energy and Utilities committee, I reiterate the need to consider additional energy assistance for non-propane users in our state.

A vast majority of Wisconsinites rely on either natural gas or electricity to heat their homes. On April 15th, the moratorium on shutting off heating has been lifted; this means that there will likely be a surge in applications for heating assistance. I ask you to consider additional energy assistance for users of natural gas and electricity, in addition to your increased assistance to propane users.

While winter is technically over, there still remains a need for our most vulnerable constituents to keep their heat on. The health and safety of these vulnerable people should remain of the utmost importance to our work.

Furthermore, the state budget moved money from weatherization assistance to bill paying assistance in June 2013. What this means is millions of dollars that could have been used to retrofit and help people keep their houses warmer through prevention was set aside for higher heating costs. The least we should do is make sure that those who need assistance with their heating costs are getting it. It would be unacceptable and harmful to taxpayers if special privilege was granted to only propane users, who frankly knew for years that the commodity price would be increasing and could fluctuate wildly.

We hope that you will do all that you can to help Wisconsinites coping with rising energy costs and provide them with the assistance they need to heat their homes. I appreciate in advance your consideration of my request to meet with you and/or your staff on this important priority.

Respectfully submitted,

State Representative
Josh Zepnick



MILWAUKEE DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

Members of the Wisconsin State Assembly and the Wisconsin State Senate

January 30, 2014

Governor Scott Walker
115 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker,

As representatives of the people of Wisconsin, we would like to thank you for your work regarding the recent propane crisis in Wisconsin. Because of this shortage, many people throughout the state are struggling to pay their heating bills and we applaud you for setting aside \$8.5 million in funds to help the 250,000 Wisconsinites who heat their homes with propane. Furthermore, we support the \$8 million in loan guarantees to help propane suppliers continue to distribute their product as wholesale prices rise. We know that in this difficult time, that is a result of our bitterly cold winter, more and more Wisconsinites are looking to the state for assistance in paying their rising energy bills. Again, while we applaud your timely action with regards to the propane shortage, we ask you to consider additional energy assistance for non-propane users in our state.

According to the 2012 Wisconsin Energy Statistics Report, propane users account for 10.8% of all energy use in the state. The vast majority of Wisconsinites rely on either natural gas or electricity to heat their homes throughout the winter. Due to continual frigid weather, heating costs in Wisconsin are on the rise. **We ask you to consider additional energy assistance for users of natural gas and electricity, in addition to propane.**

We need to ensure we are providing energy assistance to our most vulnerable constituents that live in poverty as well as to families that are struggling to pay utility bills due to the unseasonably cold winter we have experienced. The health and safety of all Wisconsinites should be of the utmost importance in our work.

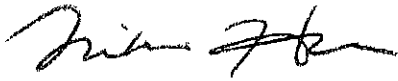
We hope that you will do all that you can to help Wisconsinites coping with rising energy costs and provide them with the assistance they need to heat their homes. As this unseasonably cold winter continues, we ask you to consider the needs of all Wisconsinites who are struggling to pay their utility bills.

Sincerely,

Sen. Tim Carpenter
3rd Senate District

Rep. Josh Zepnick
9th Assembly District

Rep. Jon Richards
19th Assembly District



Sen. Nikiya Harris
6th Senate District



Rep. LaTonya Johnson
17th Assembly District



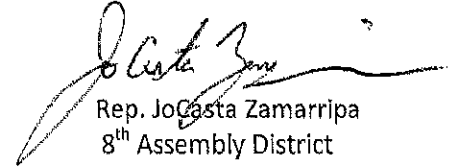
Rep. Christine Sinicki
20th Assembly District



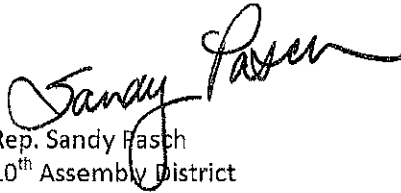
Sen. Lena Taylor
4th Senate District



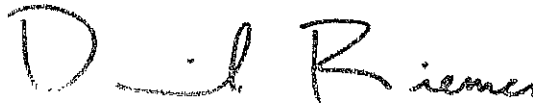
Rep. Leon Young
16th Assembly District



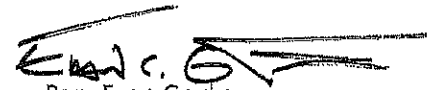
Rep. JoCasta Zamarripa
8th Assembly District



Rep. Sandy Pasch
10th Assembly District



Rep. Daniel Riemer
7th Assembly District



Rep. Evan Goyke
18th Assembly District